

CALFED Policy Group
Meeting Summary
October 15, 1998

Department of Interior Corrections to the September 14-15 Policy Group Meeting Summary

DEFT/NoName Group Reports

- Under first bullet add: None of the alternative operating scenarios indicated a high likelihood of achieving recovery.
- Add a bullet before the Action Item: NMFS and FWS commented that the program must have a high likelihood of recovery for all listed species

Accord Extension

- CALFED agencies reported that the extension for the Accord was continuing to be circulated for signature and expected to be signed by all agencies within the week. A press release was discussed and state and federal staff were assigned to take the lead in coordinating any announcement that was agreed upon.

CVP/SWP 1999 Operations Plan/Joint Point of Diversion

- Department of Water Resources (DWR) reported on the status of the 1999 Ops Plan. Based on current assessments, and under average year conditions there is expected to be a water supply impact of approximately 150,000 acre feet due to Delta AFRP actions. The Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) is working on various options to cover the shortfall. A 1999 Ops Plan is expected by December 1, 1998.
- The Bureau reported that the Department of Interior (Interior) is applying to the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) regarding a joint point of diversion for the state and federal projects. CALFED Policy Group encouraged all agencies involved in the joint point application to join together for a single coordinated long-term joint point application.
- The Bureau clarified that there will be both a short-term joint point petition for the 1999 Ops Plan to address the Bureau's canal outage and one of the Delta Anadromous Fish Restoration Plan (AFRP) actions, and a long-term joint point application made to the Board as part of the current water rights hearings.

Draft Phase II Report

The Draft Phase II Report was not distributed to Policy Group, but an excerpt (Section 4.3) was provided that covered some of the policy issues to be addressed. A list of critical issues was also distributed for discussion purposes.

Critical issues added to the list included:

- Water Management Strategy
- Conveyance Strategy
- Entity/Governance for CALFED

Comments

- Any water supply "dip" in Stage 1 needs to be purchased water not regulated. Water acquisitions/supplies need to be worked out in advance of Stage 1, not just provide a source of money.
- Critical Issues need to indicate the concerns on all sides of the issues—water supply, environmental, etc.
- Additional information on bundles needs to be provided to understand if we are "getting better together."
- Revisions were made to excerpt Section 4.3 of the Phase II Report regarding coordination of land acquisition programs. The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) indicated that while it is important to coordinate acquisition and restoration programs, limitations on acquisitions should not be proposed for other programs which have different objectives and mandates than the CALFED Program. Edits were also proposed for the policy regarding land acquisition priorities for the CALFED Program.
- A proposed agricultural mitigation policy was distributed by Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA). Comments were provided and staff were asked to coordinate revisions to the policy.
- It was agreed to delete Section 4.3 and incorporate the policy declarations into the body of the Phase II Report rather than in a stand alone section.

Madera Ranch Groundwater Project

Action. Policy Group adopted the following position regarding the funding request:

"Properly developed conjunctive use projects are necessary components of a successful CALFED Program. The Madera Ranch Groundwater Banking Project represents one such opportunity. However, several issues, including technical and environmental review issues have been raised by various local governments, landowners and other stakeholder groups. At its October 15, 1998 meeting the CALFED Policy Group directed CALFED staff to work with the project sponsors and stakeholders to resolve the issues regarding the project. Constructively resolving these issues with the local stakeholders is critical to any future decision by CALFED to provide funding for this project."

Restoration Coordination

Staff provided an update on the 1998 funding process and status of what funds, both state and federal, had been obligated to date.

FY 1999 Funding Request

An initial request for funding under the federal FY 1999 appropriation was requested.

Action. Policy Group recommended approval for the funding request which included:

\$3,750,000	Restoration Reserve Account
\$750,000	Technical Review Program
\$500,000	Bureau administration
\$3,200,000	CALFED special support programs (\$1.3 million Integrated Phasing/Endangered Species Act Compliance, \$200,000 Coordinated Permitting, \$263,000 CMARP, \$1.2 million Ecosystem Restoration and Planning/ERP, \$210,000 Watershed Management)

Water Management Strategy

- Staff provided a brief update on the status of developing a Water Management Strategy. The functions/objectives and the tools for the strategy were described.

Water Quality

- Agricultural, urban and environmental stakeholders were invited to attend Policy Group to present their concerns regarding Stage 1 water quality actions and the contingent strategy for the conveyance.
- Urban stakeholders expressed concern with the triggers for the conveyance contingent strategy. More of a continual improvement in drinking water quality is needed rather than a single point in time determination that triggers the contingent strategy. The importance of determining the process of how and who makes future decisions was emphasized.